

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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TAGS: EAID EINV-EG AU

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. PRESS REPORTS EGYPTIAN-AUSTRIAN PROTOCOL ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION SIGNED JUNE 24, DURING VISIT TO VIENNA OF MINHOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION OSMAN AHMED OSMAN.

2. ARTICLES MAKE IT APPEAR THAT JOINT COMMUNIQUE, EVIDENTLY ISSUED ON FOLLOWING DAY, INDICATES AUSTRIAN WILLINGNESS TO TAKE PART IN STUDIES RELATED TO SEVERAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH GOE HAS LONG SOUGHT SECURE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION: SUEZ CANAL TUNNELS AND CAIRO OPERA HOUSE. ESTABLISHMENT AND JOINT VENTURES IN PREFABRICATED HOUSING, CERAMIC BRICKS AND AGRO INDUSTRIES WERE ALSO MENTIONED.

3. COMMENT: REPORTS APPEAR TO BE EXAMPLE OF EGYPTIAN TENDENCY TO OVERSTATE MATTERS. AUSTRIAN EMBOFFS INFORM US THAT PROTOCOL FALLS INTO CATEGORY OF "ACT OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL GOODWILL", BUT IS DEVOID OF SPECIFIC MECHANISMS

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FOR ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES OF "EXPANDED ECONOMIC COOPERATION."

ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE AUSTRIAN FIRMS ARE OUTSIDE SCOPE OF AGREEMENT,
BUT REFERENCES TO POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS WERE INCLUDED
AT REQUEST OF EGYPTIANS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT YET CERTAIN,
AUSTRIAN EMBOFFS ARE QUITE SKEPTICAL THAT REFERENCES TO
TUNNELS, ("UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDY", "DELIVER NECESSARY
EQUIPMENT") AND THE OPERA HOUSE WENT AS FAR AS ARTICLES
INDICATE. AUSTRIANS MUCH PREFER NON-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OF
TYPE THAT APPEARS TO BE QUOTE FROM COMMUNIQUE TO EFFECT THAT
GOA ENCOURAGED AUSTRIAN FIRMS "TO INCLUDE AGREEMENTS FOR
DELIVERY OF COMMODITIES NEEDED BY COMPETENT EGYPTIAN ORGANIZA-
TION WITHIN THE LIMITS OF AVAILABLE FACILITIES."
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